

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

PACKING DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMENS FOR TRANSPORT: SUMMARY INSTRUCTIONS

For more complete packing instructions see the current edition of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations – <http://www.iata.org/dangerousgoods/index> and US DOT 49 CFR Parts 171-180 - <http://hazmat.dot.gov/rules.htm>

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Regulations, 49 CFR, requires all persons involved in the packaging, shipping, etc. of diagnostic specimens to be aware of the relevant regulations.

UN (United Nations) SPECIFICATION PACKAGING MAY BE USED FOR SHIPMENTS CONTAINING DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMENS.

A DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMEN is defined as **any human or animal material being transported for diagnostic or investigational purposes, BUT excluding live infected animals.**

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMENS ARE ASSIGNED TO UN 3373.

You, as the shipper - not the transport company - are responsible for the shipment until the package reaches the consignee.

PRIMARY PACKAGING

- Primary receptacle(s) must be water tight, e.g., if screw cap seal with parafilm or similar.
- Multiple primary receptacles must be wrapped individually to prevent breakage.
- Use enough absorbent material to absorb the entire contents of all primary receptacles in case of leakage or damage.
- When determining the volume of diagnostic specimens being shipped, include the viral transport media.
- Primary receptacle(s) must not contain more than 500 ml or 500 g.
the entire contents of the primary receptacle is the diagnostic specimen.
- The outer packaging must not contain more than 4 L or 4 kg

SECONDARY PACKAGING

- Secondary packaging must meet the IATA packaging requirements for diagnostic specimens including 1.2 meter drop test procedure. Since infectious substance packaging surpasses the requirements for diagnostic specimen packaging, infectious substance packaging can be used. Infectious substance packaging will have the required specification markings on packaging
(“UN” will be in a circle): e.g., **UN 4G/CLASS 6.2/99/GB/2450**

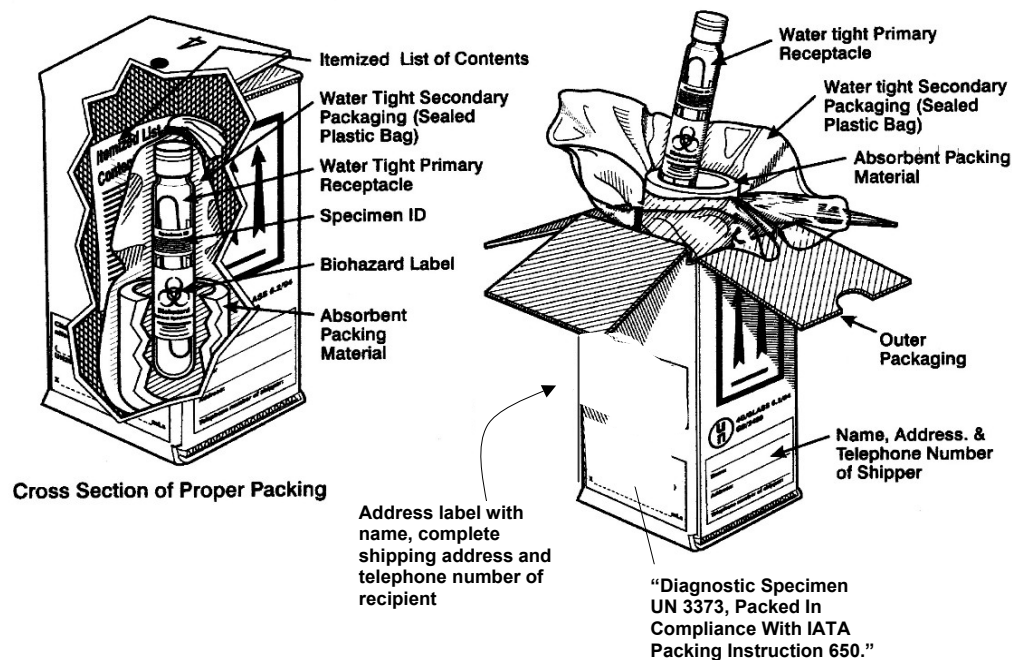
- Secondary packaging must be watertight. Follow the instructions included with the secondary packaging.
- Secondary packaging must be at least 100 mm (4 inches) in the smallest overall external dimension.
- Must be large enough for shipping documents, e.g. air waybill.

Each package and the air waybill must be marked with the following exact wording:

UN 3373 DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMEN
PACKED IN COMPLIANCE WITH
IATA PACKING INSTRUCTION 650

- An itemized list of contents must be enclosed between the secondary packaging and the outer packaging.
- A Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods is **NOT** required.

Proper packing and labeling of the secondary container for shipping of diagnostic specimens



Packing and Shipping of Clinical Specimens and Etiologic Agents

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